Ration Allowance for Delhi Police Personnel

5140. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4746 on September 6, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding payment of Rs. 200/- per month as ration allowance to all Delhi Police personnel other than Indian Police Service officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A proposal has been submitted by the Delhi Police to the Delhi Administration for payment of Rs. 200/- per month as ration allowance to all Delhi Police personnel other than Indian Police Service officers. No final recommendation has been made so far to the Government by the Delhi Administration in this regard.

Volcanic Eruption in Andaman Island

5141. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI C. SHRINIVASAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study of the causes of the recent volcanic eruption in the Andamans and the contents of the lava and gases emitted there has ben undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the results achieved so far in this regard; and

(d) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to ensure the safety of the inhabitants residing on the seismic line and those living around the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Geological Survey of India which is studying the volcanic eruption is of the view that the present volcanic eruption of Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Island is due to existence of volcanic belts with deep seated tectonic causes. Lava and ashes from the recent eruption have been studied and the erupted rocks have been identified as basaltic landesite.

(d) The Metereological Survey of India, who have studies the volcanic eruption have reported that the eruption is of very low intensity with very marginal accompanying tremor and that the impact of volcanic eruption will be confined to 5 to 10 kms. around Barren Island. Since there is no human habitation upto a distance of 70 kms. from the volcano, there is no danger to inhabitants residing on the seismic line and those living around the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu which are located at a distance of 1200 km. from the volcano.

Steel Plants in Public/Private Sector

5142. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public/private sector steel plants in the country;

(b) the number of public sector steel plants under modernisation;

(c) the number of steel plants working in their full capacity;

(d) whether steel plants in private sector have more capacity than the public sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The total number of steel plants, in operation, in the country is as under:-

(i) In Public Sector.....9 plants

(ii) In Private Sector.....

(a) one integrated steel plant

(b) 169 mini steel plants in the secondary sector.

(b) Two

(c) Nil

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Appointment of Ambassadors and High Commissioners

5143. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifications and the criteria laid down for the appointment of Ambassadors and High Commissioners; and

(b) whether all of them are of same status?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Appointments of Ambassadors and High Commissioners are made by the Government of India at its discretion from amongst the officers of Indian Foreign Service or eminent non-officials.

(b) While there is no difference in status of the Ambassador as far as the receiving State is concerned, for our own administrative purposes, Ambassadors do have classification according to their seniority is service or in the case of non-IFS Ambassadors as decided by the Government.

Metering of Local Telephone Calls in Delhi and Bombay

5144. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from MTNL for metering of all local calls from electronic exchanges in Delhi and Bombay periodically every three minutes;

(b) if so, whether telephone consumers have given any representation in protest against this proposal; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few representations from the telephone users have been received.

(c) The proposal of charging local calls on three minute basis is under the consideration of the Government. No decision has been taken as yet.